

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 THE HA 01210 01 OF 02 141609 Z

53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

GAC-01 RSR-01 /092 W

----- 051626

R 141453 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 889

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 THE HAGUE 1210

E. O. 11652: NA/

TAGS: PGOV, NL

SUBJECT: NEW DUTCH GOVERNMENT: FORMATEUR'S DECISION TO EXCLUDE
CHU FROM CABINET MAY JEOPARDIZE HIS CHANCES FOR SUCCESS

REF: THE HAGUE 1142

1. SUMMARY: FORMATEUR BURGER INFORMED KVP AND ARP FLOOR LEADERS
MAR 12 THERE NO PLACE IN HIS CABINET FOR CHU. HE REMAINED ADAMANT
ON 10 (LEFT WING) TO 6 (CONFESSIONAL) PORTFOLIO DISTRIBUTION.
FORMATEUR RECOGNIZED DECISION ON CHU MIGHT CAUSE HIS FORMATION
TO FAIL. CONFESSIONAL FLOOR LEADERS AND PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS
HAVE BEEN MEETING ALMOST ROUND THE CLOCK TO DEVISE ANSWER FOR
BURGER. KVP FLOOR LEADER ANDRIESSEN WILL MEET WITH FORMATEUR
MARCH 14 TO DISCUSS ISSUE. MEANWHILE BURGER CONTINUES TO RECEIVE
VARIETY OF CANDIDATE AND WOULD- BE CANDIDATE MINISTERS SEEMINGLY
OBLIVIOUS (PUBLICLY AT LEAST) TO FUROR HIS STANDPOINT HAS
CREATED IN CONFESSIONAL CAMP. END SUMMARY.

2. FORMATEUR BURGER SENT LENGTHY LETTER TO CATHOLIC AND ARP
FLOOR LEADERS LATE MAR 12 COMMENTING ON THEIR CONVERSATIONS
OF PREVIOUS WEEK. PRINCIPLE ITEM IN LETTER WAS BURGER'S DECISION
TO EXCLUDE CHRISTIAN HISTORICAL UNION FROM CABINET HE IS FORMING.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 THE HA 01210 01 OF 02 141609 Z

BURGER CLAIMED CHU HAD CONSISTENTLY OPPOSED EFFORT TO CREATE DEN UYL GOVERNMENT. TO INCLUDE CHU NOW WOULD BE " INDECENT." BURGER ADMITTED HIS DECISION COULD JEOPARDIZE EVENTUAL SUCCESS OF HIS FORMATION AND WOULD CAUSE DIFFICULTIES AMONG CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS. BURGER' S LETTER ALSO ALLUDED TO SEVERAL PROGRAMMATIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE LEFT WING AND CONFESSIONAL BLOCS BUT HE THOUGHT NONE OF THEM SUBSTANTIAL ENOUGH TO MOTIVATE CONFESSIONALS NOT TO " TOLERATE" DEN UYL GOVT (I. E. , SUPPORT NO CONFIDENCE VOTE AGAINST IT). BURGER REMAINED ADAMANT ON 10 (LEFT WING) - 6 (CONFESSIONAL) PORTFOLIO DISTRIBUTION AND 6 (CONFESSIONAL) - 7 (LEFT WING) STATE SECRETARIES DIVISION. HE REJECTED CONFESSIONAL SUGGESTIONS TO DIVIDE CERTAIN MINISTRIES AND EXPAND CABINET FROM 16 TO 17 OR 18 SEATS THUS ENABLING CHU TO HAVE SEAT.

3. CONFESSIONAL REACTION TO BURGER' S LETTER WAS IMMEDIATE. CHU LEADER TILANUS TERMED DECISION " INCOMPREHENSIBLE" AND ARGUED CAUSE OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC UNITY MORE IMPORTANT THAN " INCIDENTAL CABINET FORMATION." ARP LEADER AANTJES SAID BSEGER' S LETTER SEEMED DICTATED MORE BY POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS THAN BY DESIRE TO ENSURE SUCCESS OF HIS FORMATION. KVP' S ANDRIESEN TOOK SIMILAR LINE WARNING BURGER THAT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC COOPERATION AT FACT WHICH FORMATEUR MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT. CONFESSIONAL FLOOR LEADERS SPEND MOST OF MAR 13 MEETING WITH EACH OTHER, THEIR PARTY BOARDS, AND PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS TO DETERMINE WHAT LINE TO TAKE WITH BURGER ON ISSUE. BUT CHU LEADER TILANUS, INTERVIEWED AT LENGTH ON NATIONAL TV LATE MARCH 13, DECLINED TO STATE UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT BOTH ARP AND KVP HAD DECIDED TO CHOOSE FOR CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC UNITY ABOVE PARTICIPATION IN DEN UYL GOVT. HE NOTED ONLY THAT ANDRIESEN WOULD MEET WITH BURGER FOLLOWING MORNING AND HE EXPRESSED HOPE FORMATEUR WOULD ADOPT MORE REASONABLE AND CONCILIATORY LINE.

4. SECOND CHAMBER MEMBER JAN PRONK (MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IN ALTERNATIVE CABINET) LATE MAR 13 GAVE EMBOFF ACCOUNT OF REASONS BEHIND BURGER' S EXCLUSION OF CHU. PRONK SAID LABOR PARTY FAIRLY UNITED NOW BUT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE FEELING LEFT WING THREE HAVE MADE TOO MANY CONCESSIONS TO CONFESSIONALS. EXCLUSION OF CHU (TRADITIONALLY MOST RIGHT WING OF CONFESSIONAL THREE) FROM CABINET HAS PRIMARILY SYMBOLIC SIGNIFICANCE. IT FACILITATES MORE IMPORTANT BUT LESS CONTROVERSIAL COMPROMISES WITH CONFESSIONALS. HE NOTED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT LEFT WING ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 THE HA 01210 01 OF 02 141609 Z

VERGE OF ACCEPTING KVP DEMAND FOR A PORTFOLIO (MOST LIKELY

AGRICULTURE BUT NOT WITH VICE PM STATUS) FOR FORMER STATE SECRETARY WESTERTERP. PRONK SAID FROM STANDPOINT OF PARTY CADRE AND RANK AND FILE EXCLUSION OF CHU FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAN EXCLUSION OF WESTERTERP ALTHOUGH PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FEELS WESTERTERP IN CABINET WILL BE " QUITE DANGEROUS BECAUSE HE IS SO UNTRUSTWORTHY". PRONK SAID FRANKLY LABOR HAD PROBABLY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

ADP000

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 THE HA 01210 02 OF 02 141615 Z

53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

GAC-01 RSR-01 /092 W

----- 051655

R 141453 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 890

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 THE HAGUE 1210

UNDERESTIMATED CONFESSIONAL REACTION TO CHU EXCLUSION. BURGER MIGHT ALSO HAVE BEEN MISLED IN THIS RESPECT BY HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH ANDRIESSEN AND AANTJES. IN ANY EVENT, LETTER BURGER SENT WAS MUCH STRONGER THAN LABOR EXPECTED AND DID NOT HAVE ESCAPE CLAUSE LABOR WOULD HAVE INCLUDED. WHEN EMBOFF SUGGESTED IT SEEMED RATHER PREPOSTEROUS FOR PROBABLY MOST MORIBUND

POLITICAL PARTY IN NETHS CAUSE BURGER EFFORT TO FOUNDER, PRONK AGREED BUT SAID THIS MERELY UNDERLINED ABSURDITY OF PRESENT DUTCH POLITICAL SYSTEM. WHEN EMBOFF ASKED WHETHER BURGER WAS WILLING TO COMPROMISE, PRONK WAS UNCERTAIN. NOR WAS HE SURE WHETHER BURGER MIGHT TRY REPEAT OF HIS TACTICS WITH KVP, I. E., ASK PROMINENT KVP MEMBERS TO SERVE IN HIS CABINET WITHOUT GOING THROUGH FLOOR LEADER ANDRIESSEN. PRONK SAID BURGER IS A CLEVER BUT STUBBORN OLD MAN WHO IS GETTING TIRED. HE ALLEGEDLY WAS ON POINT OF THROWING IN TOWEL LAST WEEK AND ONLY AFTER LABOR PARTY

URGING DID HE GO THROUGH WITH SESSION WITH ANDRIESSEN WHICH
LED TO HIS OPTIMISTIC PREDICTION ABOUT EVENTUAL SUCCESS OF HIS
FORMATION.

5. KVP MANAGER GRIBNAU (KVP CHAIRMAN DE ZEEUW' S CLOSEST
POLITICAL ADVISER) TOLD EMBOFF MAR 12 HE THOUGHT CHU HAD BEEN
MOST FAITHFUL SUPPORTER OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC IDEAL BUT ARP' S
RECENT REAFFIRMATION (MARCH 10 IN URTRECHT) OF DECISION TO REFRAIN
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 THE HA 01210 02 OF 02 141615 Z

FROM JOINING IN UNIFIED CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY MADE ISSUE
ACADEMIC. IT WOULD BE FOOLISH TO JEOPARDIZE CHANCES FOR SHARE IN
GOVT FOR " IMPOSSIBLE IDEAL ". GRIBNAU SAID FORMATEUR HAD BEEN
IN TOUCH WITH PARTY CHAIRMAN DE ZEEUW MAR 9 BEFORE MEETING
WITH ANDRIESSEN TO ASK WHETHER, IF NECESSARY, BURGER COULD TELL
KVP FLOOR LEADER THAT DE ZEEUW WILLING TO " DO A BOERSMA", I. E.,
AGREE TO PARTICIPATE IN DEN UYL GOVT. DE ZEEUW AGREED . THIS
AGREEMENT PLUS LABOR ENCOURAGEMENT CITED ABOVE PROBABLY EXPLAINS
BURGE R' S DECISION TO TALK TO ANDRIESSEN AND HIS SUBSEQUENT
OPTIMISTIC FORECAST OF HIS EFFORT SUCCEEDING.

6. COMMENT: BURGER AND LEFT WING PARTIES HAVE AGAIN MADE IT
APPEAR SUCCESS FOR FAILURE OF FORMATION RESTS SQUARELY ON
CONFESSIONAL SHOULDERS. DESPITE ANXIETY THAT BURGER MAY HAVE
OVERPLAYED HIS HAND THIS TIME, LEFT WING PARTIES ARE GAMBLING
ON KVP' S AND ARP' S APPETITE FOR OFFICE TO IMPEL THEM TO DITCH
CHU. SHOULD THIS GAMBLE BE INCORRECT, HOWEVER, LEFT CAN STILL
BACK WATER AND WORK OUT COMPROMISE ALTHOUGH SELLING IT TO RADICAL
LEFT AND TO EXHAUSTED BURGER MIGHT PROVE TROUBLESOME.
MIDDENDORF

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973THEHA01210
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730330/aaaahvsj.tel
Line Count: 208
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 THE HAGUE 1142
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <14-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971208
Subject: NEW DUTCH GOVERNMENT: FORMATEUR' S DECISION TO EXCLUDE CHU FROM CABINET MAY JEOPARDIZE HIS CHANCES FOR SUCCESS
TAGS: PGOV, NL
To: BRUSSELS
EC BRUSSELS
EUR
NATO
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005